

SOVIET POLICY IX WARTIME

that Britain was timid and unable to defend the smaller nations. Xor were their fears relieved by the official American indifference in these matters. The result was a growing senility of journalists, statesmen, and deputies toward Russia.

SOVIET PROPAGANDA: ITS SUBSTANCE

The substance of Soviet propaganda in Iran fell into two categories. The first consisted of that type of propaganda that every belligerent government usually spreads concerning its contribution to a war, the heroism of its soldiers, the devotion and patriotism or its population. In this field Soviet publicity did not differ greatly from the publicity of any other Allied country save in the volume of information presented. The second category, however, differed from the established wartime pattern, and could be described as specific political action directed toward ulterior objectives. Sometimes it became difficult to distinguish between the two kinds inasmuch as both ultimately served the same long-range Soviet policy. The Red Army victories were enormously publicized in the Iranian press. Because Russia bore the brunt of the German attack for a long time, this did not seem objectionable. But often it happened that routine occurrences on the Russian front were given much more prominence than important victories in the West. If one were to judge by the Iranian press, Anglo-American strategic bombing of German cities and war industries was a poor second to Soviet victories. Soviet-owned or Soviet-influenced movie theaters presented an amazing number of films exalting the prowess of the Red Army. This process definitely relegated all Western war effort to a

subordinate plane.
Minor facts testifying to the devotion of Soviet citizens
to the regime
were given prominence, as, for example, a news item
that a *kolh-*
hoznik from some distant village donated one million
rubles to the
Soviet government to help the war effort.

Another salient feature of this propaganda was the
constant stress-
ing of Soviet achievements in economic, social,
artistic, and political
spheres. The type and quantity of news released to
the Iranian press
seemed to prove that the articles were to serve other
aims than war
publicity. Prominence was given especially to the
regime's achieve-